

STUDIES ON INDIAN ACERS - II

A new variety of Acer oblongum Wall. from India.

M. L. Banerji
University of Kalyani, Kalyani, India.

Pax (1902) has mentioned five varieties of Acer oblongum Wall. of which var. glaucum Graf c. Schwerin is the most common and has a wide range of distribution; being from Kashmir to Central China. Another Indian variety is var. microcarpum Hiern, which is based on Griffith 935, collected from Mishmi Hills. Two other varieties, latialatum and concolor, are restricted to Hupeh in Central China, while the fifth, var. horizontale, is based on a cultivated plant in the botanical garden at Florenz. The varietal differences designated by Pax are the leaf and fruit characters.

The widely distributed var. glaucum, which has leaves that are glabrous on the upper surface and glaucous beneath, has been carefully studied for its fruit characters. The fruits have wings which are 2.5 to 3.2 cm. long, generally 2.8 cm. when measured from the constriction at the base of the inner side to the tip; and at its widest point it measures 9 to 12 mm. The var. microcarpum has fruit wings just 1 cm. long, with a width of 4-5 mm.

None of the five varieties mentioned by Pax has thin membranous leaves. A specimen collected from Jharipani (Mussoorie) has characteristically membranous leaves, and also the size of the alae of the fruit is shorter than that of var. glaucum. Material in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL.) and in the Forest Herbarium, Dehra Dun (DD.) have been examined. In the Central National Herbarium two sheets of Mackinnon collected also from Mussoorie, and with membranous leaves, have been encountered. These specimens are floriferous and the floral structures are exactly like those of var. glaucum. It has, thus, been thought best to describe this material with thin membranous leaves as a new variety under A. oblongum Wall.

Acer oblongum Wall. in DC. Prodr. I: 593, 1824; Hiern in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. I: 693, 1875; Pax in Engler Bot. Jahrb. VII: 208, 1886; et Pfreich. 8: 31, 1902. (=A. laurifolium D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nep. 249, 1825, A. buzimbala Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don, loc. cit.)

var. membranaceum var. nova.

Accedit ad var. glaucum multis in notis, ab eo tamen differt foliis membranaceis papyraceisve, alis fructuum minoribus nempe 2.3--2.5 cm. longis, 9--12 mm. ad medium latis.

Typus lectus ad Jharipani prope Mussoorie in montibus Himalaicis Occidentalibus ab expeditione Collegii Meerut die 29

martii anni 1957, et positus in CAL sub accessionis numero 331441; paratypi, Mckinnon s.n. lectus die 15 aprilis anni 1896 ad Mussoorie, et Mckinnon s.n. lectus die 3 aprilis anni 1898 eodemque in loco, servati in CAL, primus sine accessionis numero, alter vero sub accessionis numero 95962A.

Acer oblongum is an evergreen tree about 12--15 m. tall with glabrous, oblong, long-pointed leaves. Flowers in hairy corymbs, appear from February to April and fruits from April to July in the North Western Himalayas. Flowering and fruiting is late in the Eastern Himalayas. Distributed in the temperate Himalaya, 610--1820 m. (2,000--6,000 feet) above sea level.

This new variety approaches the typical variety glaucum in most of the characters but clearly differs in having thin membranous to papery texture of the leaves and in the small size of the fruit wings, which are 2.3--2.5 cm. long and in the middle are 9--12 mm. wide.

The author is deeply indebted to Rev. Fr. H. Santapau, Director of the Botanical Survey of India, for the Latin translation of the diagnosis of the new variety and for going through the paper and improving its quality.

NOTES ON NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PLANTS. XXXVIII

Harold N. Moldenke

PAEPALANTHUS LONGICAULIS var. GLABER Moldenke, var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica speciei foliis vaginisque pedunculisque glaberrimis recedit.

This variety differs from the typical form of the species in having its leaves, sheaths, and peduncles completely glabrous.

The type of the variety was collected by Ezechias Paulo Heringer & Castellanos (no. 6096) in the Serra de Cipó, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on March 4, 1958, and is deposited in the H. N. Moldenke Herbarium at Yonkers, New York.

TRIPTEROCALYX MICRANTHUS f. ALBUS Moldenke, f. nov.

Haec forma a forma typica speciei floribus fructeisque albis recedit.

This form differs from the typical form of the species in having its flowers and fruits, including the membranous wings, white.

The type of the form was collected by Andrew Ralph Moldenke (no. 635) on the dry desert at Bingham, Socorro County, New Mexico, on August 14, 1963, and is deposited in the H. N. Moldenke Herbarium at Yonkers, New York.